

News Release

Northwest School Names 2005 Top Aggies

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, May 31, 2005

The Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) Alumni Association is announcing the 2005 Top Aggie recipients. The NWSA is the predecessor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). The Top Aggie award is the highest recognition given by the alumni association of the NWSA. Seven alumni were selected for the honor. They are Dennis Driscoll, Las Vegas, NV, Lyle Kasprick, Orono, MN, Merlin Skretvedt, Edwardsville, IL, Keith Chisholm, Gary MN, Glen and Marlys (Love) Finkenbinder, Crookston, MN, and Arnold Skeie, Green Valley, AZ.

Dennis Driscoll , is a 1950 graduate, was a distinguished graduate of the R.O.T.C. program and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant with the United States Air Force. He spent 22 years in the Air Force and his career is filled with accomplishments as a pilot, officer, and Chief of Special Services including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Lyle Kasprick is also a 1950 graduate and worked as a certified public accountant before going into private business. He has served on several UMC committees, most recently the strategic planning committee, and has supported scholarships at UMC for many years. Kasprick and his wife, Kathleen, received the Torch and Shield Award, UMC's highest honor in 2002.

Merlin Skretvedt graduated in 1954 and served in the Peace Corps, and taught vocational agriculture courses in the United States and around the world. He was appointed to Ghana, West Africa as a farm mechanization and farm shop advisor as well as with the International Labor Organization (ILO), Geneva in vocational education.

Keith Chisholm graduated in 1955 and, along with farming, founded Circle C Seeds, Inc. in Gary, Minnesota that grew into a dry bean processing plant. He served for 15 years on the Gary School Board, six years on the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association board and the Norman County Crop Improvement Association.

Glen and Marlys (Love) Finkenbinder both graduated in 1955 and have worked together for 45 years in agriculture. Glen served on the Red River Valley Winter Shows Board of Directors, and now serves on the board of directors for the Villa St. Vincent. Marlys is a member of the RiverView Healthcare Auxiliary, the Crookston Civic Music League Board, and has served several terms on the NWSA Alumni Association Board.

Arnie Skeie , also a 1955 graduate, worked at Control Data Corporation for twenty years. While working there, he purchased and became president of The Farmers' State Bank of Winger, Minnesota and later, started a second operation in Fosston, Minnesota. Skeie served as mentor Fosston High School Youth Entrepreneur Program .

The Top Aggies will be honored on June 25 during the NWSA all-school reunion at a special program and banquet held that evening. Along with the Top Aggie awards, a special award for distinguished service will be presented.

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